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72 Inventor: Ostrup, Jan
Varstakatu 2
SF-20780 Kaarina (FI)

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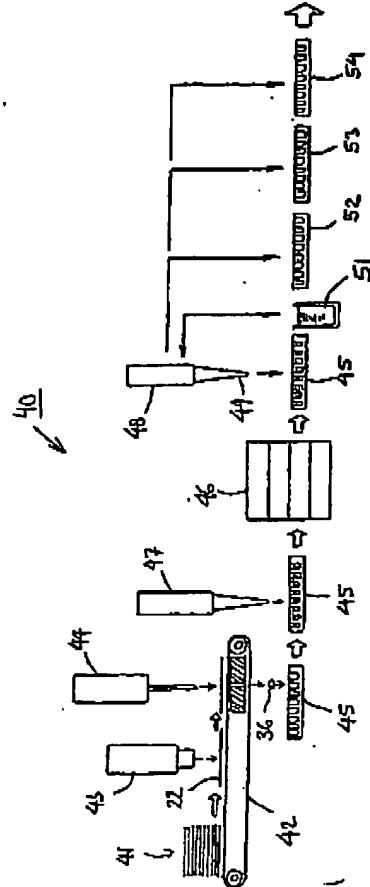
74 Representative: GallaFent, Richard John
GALLAFENT & CO. 8 Staple Inn
London WC1V 7QH (GB)

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71 Applicant: WALLAC OY
P.O. Box 10
SF-20101 Turku 10 (FI)

54 Method and apparatus for handling samples and sample collection system.

57 Method for handling blood samples (32) wherein a blood sample is absorbed into a substrate such as filter paper (30) and a sample piece (36) is taken from the filter paper from the opposite side to the absorption side. The sample piece is placed in a vessel, e.g. a sample well of an uncoated micro titration plate (45), and is dissolved in a liquid so that a sample solution is transferred to a second vessel e.g. a micro titration plate (52-54) coated for the analysis. The apparatus comprises a camera (43), which identifies the filter paper (30), locates the blood sample (32), informs the punch (47) of the location of the sample. The filter paper (30) is placed in a package (22) having openings (25) for absorbing and punching of the sample and the covering (23) is provided with a bar code (29).



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Jouve, 18, rue Saint-Denis, 75001 PARIS

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The invention relates to a method and apparatus for handling samples and a sample collection system. The samples are normally blood samples.

In the method the samples are taken onto a solid substrate like filter paper, a sample piece is punched from the filter paper at a point where the blood sample has absorbed, and the blood sample is dissolved from the sample piece to the sample solution which is conveyed to a measuring instrument for measurement. The invention also relates to an automatic sample handling apparatus for blood samples. In the sample collection